

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. According to the Examiner, all of the claims are readable on the elected species. Claims 9-12 are thus rejoined. By this amendment, claims 1 and 7-12 are amended and claims 13-20 are added for the Examiner's consideration. The above amendments and added claims do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. For example, support for the amendment to claim 1 and added claims 13-20 is provided at Figure 6 and the description thereof at pages 26 and 27 of the specification. Reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

***35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection***

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1<sup>1</sup> and 7-12 are amended in order to provide proper antecedent basis for features of the claimed invention. As to the front annular chamber and rear annular chamber, Applicants submit that there are two annular chambers disclosed in the specification and properly recited in the claimed invention. For example, there is provided a front annular chamber 45A surrounding the vacuum pressure introducing valve seat 30. The rear annular

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<sup>1</sup> Claim 1 is also amended for a minor typographical error.

chamber 45B, which the back face of the valve portion 34a is facing, is defined by the valve portion 34a having the seal lip 37.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1-12 be withdrawn.

***35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection***

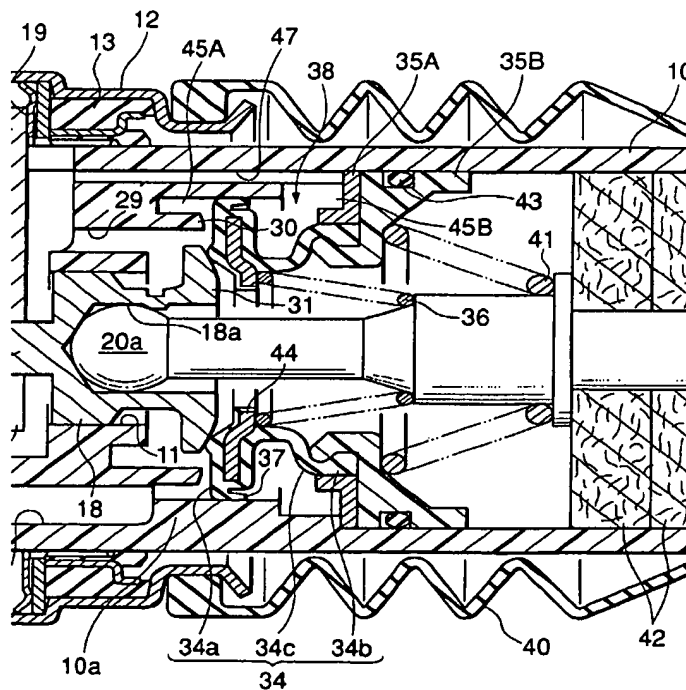
Claims 1-2 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Publication 2002/0073834. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated under U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,190,125. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention is directed to a vacuum pressure booster. The booster includes a valve body which has an annular attaching bead portion airtightly attached to the valve cylinder and an expansion cylinder portion extending in the axial direction from the attaching bead portion. An annular valve portion communicates with a forward end portion of the expansion cylinder portion and is opposed to the vacuum pressure introducing valve seat and the atmosphere introducing valve seat so as to seat thereon. The attaching bead portion is tightly held between a pair of cylindrical holding portions formed in a pair of valve holders attached to the valve cylinder. A cylindrical connecting portion of the front holder is engaged with an outer circumference of an engaging portion of a rear valve holder of the pair of valve holders.

These features are not shown in the references applied by the Examiner.

***U.S. Publication 2002/0073834***

In U.S. Publication 2002/0073834, as shown in the partly reproduced Figure 1, the attachment bead portion 34b is sandwiched between a pair of valve holders 35A and 35B, which contact the rear end of a ring-shaped projection 10a. The ring-shaped projection 10a is integrally formed in the inner wall of the valve cylinder 10 together with the vacuum introduction valve seat 30. The valve portion 34a is located facing the atmosphere introduction valve seat 31 and the vacuum introduction valve seat 30, so that the valve portion 34a can be seated on them. The annular portion of the valve holder 35A is abutting against the annular portion of the valve holder 35B. (See, near reference numeral 45B).



However, as shown clearly in Figure 1, which is partly reproduced above, the valve holders 35A does not include a cylindrical connecting portion which is engaged with an outer circumference of an engaging portion of the valve holder 35B. In contrast, the annular portion of the valve holder 35A is abutting against the annular portion of the valve holder 35B. (See, near reference numeral 45B.)

***U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0069751***

In U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751, the valve seats 317 and 322 are seated on S1 of valve 324 and S2 of atmosphere valve 333, respectively. These valve elements S1 and S2 are separate elements. There is no teaching, whatsoever, that either valve element S1 and S2 includes an annular attaching bead portion, an expansion cylinder portion extending in the axial direction from the attaching bead portion or an annular valve portion communicating with a forward end portion of the expansion cylinder portion and opposed to the vacuum pressure introducing valve seat and the atmosphere introducing valve seat so as to seat thereon. Instead, each of the separate valve elements S1 and S2 has a single portion which communicates with the valve 317 and valve 324.

Additionally, the Examiner is of the opinion that U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751 shows a pair of cylindrical valve holders tightly holding the attaching bead portion of the valve body, noting that the cylinder, itself, and the holding portion 339 are the valve holders. Applicants submit that the U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751 does not show a pair of valve holders as recited in the claimed invention. For example, in the claimed invention, the

cylinder wall is not a valve holder; instead, the claimed invention positively recites a cylinder wall and a pair of valve holders. These are three distinct elements. In contrast, U.S.

Publication No. 2002/0069751 shows only two elements.

Anyway, even broadly interpreting U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751, this reference still does not remotely teach

one of cylindrical holding portions comprising a cylindrical connecting portion which is engaged with an outer circumference of an engaging portion of a rear valve holder of the pair of valve holders.

Instead, U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751 shows a single valve holder 339. This single valve holder does not have a cylindrical connecting portion which is engaged with an outer circumference of the engaging portion of a rear valve holder. First, the valve holder 339 is the front valve holder; however, the cylinder wall, for example, cannot be interpreted as a rear valve holder. The cylinder wall is not even a valve holder. Second, the valve holder 339 has an end portion which engages an inner circumference of the cylinder. The valve holder does not engage an outer circumference of an engaging portion of the cylinder wall.

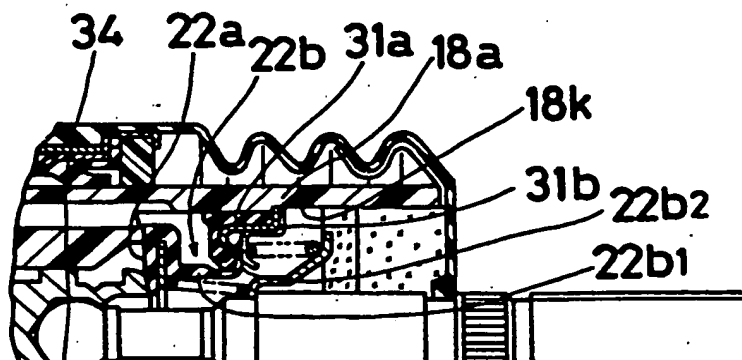
The Examiner is also of the opinion that U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751 shows the features of claims 3 and 5, in Figures 2 and 12. Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0069751. The pair of valve members are engaged on the inner circumferential face of the valve cylinder through seal member 43. However, even assuming that the cylinder wall is a holder, which it is not, the cylinder wall is not "integrally" formed with the other holder. The valve holder and the cylinder wall are

separate and distinct elements, which are abutting one another. These two elements are not integrally formed.

***U.S. Patent No. 5,190,125***

In U.S. Patent No. 5,190,125, the control valve element 22 has a rolling portion 22b which includes a barrel-shaped portion 22b1 and a flange portion 22b2. The flange portion 22b2 is secured in an air-tight manner by a first retainer 31a secured to the hollow portion 18k of the piston body 18 and a second retainer 31b also secured to the hollow portion 18k. The first retainer 31a comprises a circular member 31a1 which has an inner flange portion and a tubular portion, and a steel plate member 31a2 which is secured to the circular member 31a1. The second retainer 31b is secured to the tubular portion of the first retainer 31a and the hollow portion 18k of the piston body 18 in a pressing manner. The outer circumference portion of the control valve element 22 and the flange portion 22b2 of the rolling portion 22b are secured in an air-tight manner by the overlapping flange portions of the first retainer 31a and the second retainer 31b. This is shown in Figure 2, partly reproduced below.

**FIG. 2**



U.S. Patent No. 5,190,125 does not show the flange of the valve member held between a pair of cylindrical holding portions formed in a pair of valve holders attached to the valve cylinder. In U.S. Patent No. 5,190,125, the flange of the valve member is held by the flange member of the first retaining member. The second retaining member is placed over the first retaining member in order to secure the first retaining member.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection over claims 1-12 be withdrawn.

***New Claims***

Claims 13-20 are added for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 13-18 are dependent from distinguishable base claim 1. Claim 19 is an independent claim, which is distinguishable from the applied references of record. For example, none of the references, either alone or in combination, show the attaching bead portion tightly held between a pair of cylindrical holding portions formed in a front valve holder and a rear valve holder, with the front valve holder including a connecting portion that is positioned between the valve cylinder and an engaging portion of the rear valve holder. Claim 20 is dependent from distinguishable base claim 19.

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### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Calderon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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